

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (amended) A method for the determination of combustion misfires in an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders, wherein ~~at least two successive compression times and expansion times are determined for at least one cylinder of the internal combustion engine, for the determination of combustion misfires a comparison of the change in the compression times with the change in the expansion times being carried out, and the result of the comparison being~~ comprising the steps of:
 - a. measuring at least two successive compression times and expansion times for at least one cylinder;
 - b. forming the difference between compression times for said at least one cylinder;
 - c. forming the difference between expansion times for said at least one cylinder; and
 - d. forming the difference between the differences calculated in steps (b) and (c), wherein this difference provides a measure of a combustion misfire.
2. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is carried out as a function of predeterminable operating parameters of

the internal combustion engine and/or of ~~predeterminable~~ ambient parameters of the internal combustion engine.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, the method being carried out for each cylinder of the internal combustion engine.
4. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, after the detection of ~~at least one~~ a predefined number of combustion misfires, ~~in particular after a predeterminable number of combustion misfires,~~ a fault signal is generated and emitted.
5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a threshold value for the measure of a combustion misfire is formed at least as a function of at least one parameter of the internal combustion engine, no fault signal being generated if the comparison result exceeds or falls short of this threshold value.
6. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the method is not carried out in the case of a deviation from permissible value ranges for ~~the predeterminable operating~~ parameters of the internal combustion engine and/or for ~~the predeterminable operating~~ ambient parameters of the internal combustion engine.

7. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, used in an on-board diagnostic device at least for the internal combustion engine driving a vehicle, ~~in particular a passenger vehicle.~~
8. (new claim) The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a passenger vehicle.
9. (new claim) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of measuring successive compression times are carried out on two cylinders, with one cylinder providing a first compression time and the other cylinder providing a second compression time; and the step of measuring successive expansion times are carried out on these same two cylinders, with one cylinder providing one expansion time and the other cylinder providing a second expansion time.
10. (new claim) A method for the determination of combustion misfires in an internal combustion engine having a plurality of cylinders, wherein at least two successive compression times and expansion times are determined and the ratio of the difference in compression times to the difference in expansion times is computed for at least one cylinder of the internal combustion engine, for the determination of combustion misfires a comparison of the change in the compression times with the change in the expansion times being carried out, and the result of the comparison being a measure of a combustion misfire.